

RUSSIANS CLAIM GAIN IN POLAND; WIN IN GALICIA

Report Repulse of German
Attacks Near Mlawa
and Lowicz.

GERMANS SUFFER LOSS NEAR CRACOW

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The situation in Poland appears from the latest news to have undergone another kaleidoscopic change—this time markedly in favor of the Russians. Twenty-four hours ago a tremendous concentration of German troops was driving toward Warsaw, with one column barely twenty miles from the city. There was gloom in Petrograd, in Paris and in this capital.

Today suddenly came the news that the Russians have turned the tables in characteristic fashion and are driving the Germans back from southern East Prussia to the mountain passes south of Cracow. On the basis of the official reports alone it seems likely that the strategy of the Grand Duke Nicholas has defeated the energy and skill of Marshal von Hindenburg.

The French Government announces that the Russians have won important battles and have routed the German left wing, while defeating the center with heavy losses. According to the French report German attacks near Mlawa and north of Lowicz have been repulsed.

The German official report to-day contains an admission that the Russians are on the offensive in East Prussia and in southern Poland, and claims no advances for any wing of von Hindenburg's army. With such negative support for the official Russian and French reports of the operations in Poland, there is little doubt here that something went wrong with the German offensive plan and that the Russians have been quick to seize an advantage.

Petrograd correspondents of Paris and London newspapers supply an explanation of the remarkable change in the situation. While their despatches are to be weighed with some care, they all out in interesting fashion the framework furnished by the official reports. The Petrograd correspondent of *Le Matin* telegraphs: "The German plan, which consisted of turning the German right wing at Lowicz and at the same time completing a similar maneuver on the extreme left (Russia's) on the river Donajec in Galicia, has completely failed. The Germans are reduced to making bloody and useless attacks on our front."

Dimitrieff Defeats Germans.

It is reported that the Austro-German plan of operations, which contemplated the recapture of East Prussia, the relief of Cracow and the seizure of Warsaw, went wrong because the various movements were poorly timed. The Bulgarian General Dimitrieff, who commands the Russian army before Cracow, was able to inflict a severe defeat upon the German force in that region before it had time to effect a junction with the German army to the north. Dimitrieff seems to have followed Napoleon's favorite tactics of rapid marching and of defeating in turn opposing forces that were trying to unite.

The German official press bureau cautions against premature expectations of victory on the Polish battle front. It says the Russians are not definitely defeated, the new Russian positions still being intact twelve or thirteen miles east of Lodz. These positions will be untenable, the statement adds, if the Germans succeed in breaking through in the vicinity of Lowicz, northeast of Lodz.

The attacks south of Petrokow, as well as those by the Austrians further south, it is admitted, have led to no definite result.

SAUL INVASION FAILED.

German Losses in Poland Are Appalling, Correspondent Declares.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The Petrograd correspondent of the *Observer* telegraphs under yesterday's date:

"The second German invasion of Poland and the attempt to break through the center of the Russian strategic front has failed with an appalling loss of life. These losses cannot be replaced, as they were largely of Germany's finest troops. 'Apart from the Austrian allies, there are now thirty German army corps fighting in Russia, or roughly 1,500,000 men. Everything available has been moved across from the French front to the Russian fighting zone. These include even the Prussian Guards corps, the premier troops of the German army. They are the men who failed to break the British defense in the western theatre of war some time ago."

The Kaiser counted on their doing much more against the Russians. Their comrades mostly died before the British lines like brave men who were badly led, but from the Russians the Guards retreated like very ordinary troops and killed a large proportion of the prisoners."

"Russia, without moving troops from anywhere except from the rear to the front, has dealt with all the attacks with equal success. The German army which advanced from Mlawa is in full flight. The army that was south of the Vistula was flung back with very heavy losses after no fewer than seven determined attacks had been delivered in the space of thirty hours by the desperate Germans."

Their night attacks were particularly disastrous. They were delivered in solid masses, which were discovered by searchlights and after the Germans had been allowed to get within point blank range they were mowed down."

"It is plain of Germany appear this time to have been admirably conceived, but other the German troops after a series of defeats at the hands of the Russians, are no longer the same men or the Kaiser moved too few men to accomplish his purpose."

"It is now plain that nothing the Germans can do will suffice to turn the Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian commander in chief, from the steady pursuit

of his original strategic scheme. By his advance Germany's best defenses will be turned with fatal results."

GERMAN PLAN FOILED.

Russians Regard Victory Near Cracow of Great Importance.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Petrograd telegraphs: "The Russian victory south of Cracow is of great importance. The Russians have now a broad solid line pressing toward the southeastern salient of Silesia. By a successful battle in the Carpathians the Russians have effectively upset Field Marshal von Hindenburg's elaborate plan of liberating Cracow and putting Russia's southern army upon a prolonged defensive."

"Gen. von Hindenburg directed the Austrians to form a new army of all the available troops beyond the Carpathians, with the addition of two divisions brought from Serbia, and attack the Russian left flank. The Russians, he believed, would be compelled to fight simultaneously on two fronts, the Austrians in the south combined with the Germans and Austrians in the west, but the Russians linked up their columns on the southern slopes of the Carpathians with a corps on the extreme left and turned the left front upon the Austrians, inflicting an irreparable defeat."

"Thus foiled, Marshal von Hindenburg was thrown upon the only alternative of a heavy positional battle on difficult, broken ground. The Russians never have lost their grip on Cracow from the north-east. The operations there are developing favorably with diminishing resistance by Gen. Dankl's depleted army."

"The Germans have been almost as unsuccessful in their efforts in north Poland and have been thrown back by the Russians upon the River Narow. A desperate night attack failed, partly through the Russians changing their position and delivering an attack on the right flank of the German infantry, which, advancing in close masses upon an empty space, was trapped by land mines. The Germans also suffered severely from shrapnel in the darkness. The Russians on the following morning shot down and captured a German airship of the albatross type."

"Wounded Russian officers in the hospitals at Tiflis describe the extraordinary physical endurance of the Turks, who march barefooted in the snow and shoot standing or kneeling from the trenches. Their only dread is the bayonet."

HUNGARIANS FOR PEACE.

Further Resistance Useless, Said to Be Popular Belief.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The *Central News* correspondent at Petrograd says: "Popular and semi-official opinion in Hungary is in favor of making peace with Russia, according to the statement of a person in a position to speak authoritatively. The Hungarians are said to admit that the campaign has been lost in Galicia and that the passes through the Carpathians have been taken by the Russians. 'Hungary is in danger of an invasion and further resistance will only make the conditions of peace more severe. A number of meetings at which the possibility of arriving at peace terms has been discussed have been held.'"

CROWN PRINCE DEAD AGAIN.

Latest Rumor Comes From Swiss Correspondent of 'Temps'.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The *Temps* says that one of its correspondents in Switzerland has seen two letters from different persons to friends in which the death of Crown Prince Frederick William of Germany is mentioned. These letters were sent and received by persons in different classes of society. One of the writers expresses regret that it should be necessary to keep this news secret. The writers of both letters, the *Temps* says, are in a position to be well informed. In making this statement the *Temps* reminds its readers that this is not the first time the death of the Crown Prince has been reported. It says, however, that while there is no confirmation of the report the genuineness of the letters is unquestionable.

DR. DERBY SAILS FOR HOME.

With Wife, Who Was Miss Roosevelt, Leaves American Hospital.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Dr. Richard Derby of New York and Mrs. Derby, formerly Miss Ethel Roosevelt, sailed for New York to-day.

Dr. Derby was one of the first surgeons to volunteer his services when Dr. Joseph A. Blake issued an appeal for six surgeons and nurses to assist him in the case of wounded at the American Ambulance in Paris. He has been working at the American Ambulance since the first of October. Mrs. Derby acted as a nurse for the wounded.

DUTCH SEIZE GERMAN BOATS.

Attempt to Smuggle Grain on Scheldt Is Charged.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 12.—The *Telegraaf* correspondent at Hansweert reports that the Dutch authorities have seized fifteen river boats containing cargoes of grain and other goods, which it is said, the Germans were trying to smuggle through Dutch territory on the River Scheldt. The German authorities, the despatch says, contend that the cargoes are private property.

NO ANILINE SHIPMENTS.

England Prohibits Export Even to United States.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The Government has prohibited the exportation of aniline oil, aniline salt and picric acid and its components to all countries, according to an announcement printed in the *Official Gazette* to-day.

This order amends a previous order issued on November 10, which permitted the exportation of these products to the Allies of Great Britain and to the United States, the latter exception having been obtained with considerable effort by the American consular officers.

German Oil Steamship From America Held Up at Gibraltar.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Despatches from Gibraltar say that a German tank steamship with 7,000 tons of oil has been held up at Gibraltar by a British warship. The tanker was bound from an American port to Italy.

Ban on Export of Grapes.

By Central News.

ATHENS, Dec. 12.—The export of figs and grapes from the Smyrna vilayet has been prohibited.

BRITISH MAY SEIZE THE BRINDILLA AGAIN

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

ST. MICHAEL, AZORES, Dec. 11 (delayed).—The Standard Oil Company's tank steamer Brindilla, flying the American flag, reached this port to-day from

Alexandria, Egypt, to take on a cargo of 1,600,000 gallons of oil from the tank steamer Excelsior, flying the German flag. The Brindilla expects to take the cargo, valued at \$111,000, to the consignees, the Danish Petroleum Company of Copenhagen, a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. Whether she succeeds or not depends on a British fleet of twelve cruisers through which she will have to pass soon after leaving here. These British cruisers are patrolling the

triangle formed by the Azores, the Canaries and the Cape Verde Islands. In accordance with British policy, the commander of the fleet will have to be satisfied that the oil will not find its way into the hands of Great Britain's enemies, or the Brindilla will be seized again, just as she was when she left New York for Egypt on her last voyage, early in October. The Brindilla will be unable to tranship the oil in less than a week or ten days. The Brindilla is one of the five Standard Oil tank steamers which were recently transferred from the German flag to the

American. When flying the German flag, she was known as the Washington.

SEEK SHIPS' RELEASE.

Norwegian Owners Urge Action to Recover Five From Germans.

By Central News.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 12.—A despatch from Bergen says that Norwegian ship owners are urging the Foreign Office to take ac-

tion for the release of the five steamers seized by the Germans, following the decision by a prize court at Kiel. They declare that the Norwegian Consulates were ignored and that Norway must use all possible pressure to prevent a violation of the property rights of her subjects. As a consequence of the German declaration making wood contraband, Norway has arranged with Sweden for the conveyance of wood by railroad to Norwegian west coast ports, whence it will be shipped to England and elsewhere. The new route will be opened as soon as possible.

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